

Migrant deaths in New Mexico have increased tenfold

By ANITA SNOW, CHRISTOPHER L. KELLER and MORGAN LEE

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Ten times as many migrants died in New Mexico near the U.S.-Mexico border in each of the last two years compared with just five years ago as smuggling gangs steer them — exhausted, dehydrated and malnourished — mostly into the hot desert, canyons or mountains west of El Paso, Texas.

During the first eight months of 2024, the bodies of 108 presumed migrants mostly from Mexico and Central America were found near the border in New Mexico and often less than 10 miles (6 kilometers) from El Paso, according to the most recent data.



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Border Patrol vehicles survey a steel fence at the Southwest border with Mexico at Sunland Park, N.M., Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.
Associated Press

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Migrant deaths in New Mexico have increased tenfold

Continued from Front

The remains of 113 presumed migrants were found in New Mexico in 2023, compared with nine in 2020 and 10 in 2019. It's not clear exactly why more migrants are being found dead in that area, but many experts say smugglers are treating migrants more harshly and bringing them on paths that could be more dangerous in extreme summer temperatures.

The influx has taxed the University of New Mexico's Office of the Medical Investigator, which identifies the dead and conducts autopsies that almost always show the cause as heat-related.

"Our reaction was sadness, horror and surprise because it had been very consistently low for as long as anyone can remember," said Heather Edgar, a forensic anthropologist with the office.

Serving the entire state, the office over two years has added deputy medical investigators to handle the extra deaths on top of the usual 2,500 forensic cases.

"We'd always had three deputies down in that area, and I think we have nine or 10 now," Edgar said of New Mexico's eastern migration corridor.

Immigration and border security are among voters' top concerns heading into the Nov. 5 presidential contest, but the candidates have focused on keeping migrants out of the U.S. and deporting those already here.



Forensic anthropologist Heather Edgar with the Office of the Medical Investigator poses for a portrait outside her office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024.
Associated Press

The increase in deaths is a humanitarian concern for advocates as smugglers guide migrants into New Mexico through fencing gaps at the border city of Sunland Park and over low-lying barriers west of the nearby Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

"People are dying close to urban areas, in some cases just 1,000 feet from roads," noted Adam Isacson, an analyst for the nongovernmental Washington Office on Latin America. He said water stations, improved telecommunications and more rescue efforts could help.

New Mexico officials are targeting human-smuggling networks, recently arresting 16 people and rescuing 91 trafficking victims. U.S. Customs and Border Protection added a surveillance blimp to monitor the migration corridor near its office in Santa Teresa, in

New Mexico's Doña Ana County. Movable 33-foot (10-meter) towers use radar to scan the area.

U.S. officials in recent years have added 30 more push-button beacons that summon emergency medical workers along remote stretches of the border at New Mexico and western Texas. They have also set up more than 500 placards with location coordinates and instructions to call 911 for help.

This summer, the Border Patrol expanded search and rescue efforts, dispatching more patrols with medical specialists and surveillance equipment. The agency moved some beacons closer to the border, where more migrants have been found dead or in distress.

Border Patrol says it rescued nearly 1,000 migrants near the U.S. border in New Mexico and western Texas over the past 12 months —

up from about 600 the previous 12 months.

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the faith-based Hope Border Institute in El Paso, said 10-member church teams recently started dropping water bottles for migrants in the deadly New Mexico corridor alongside fluttering blue flags.

"Part of the problem is that organized crime has become very systematic in the area," Corbett said of the increased deaths. He also blamed heightened border enforcement in Texas and new U.S. asylum restrictions that President Joe Biden introduced in June and tightened last month.

New Mexico's rising deaths come as human-caused climate change increases the likelihood of heat waves. This year, the El Paso area had its hottest June ever, with an average temperature of 89.4 degrees Fahrenheit (31.8 Celsius). June 12 and 13 saw daily record highs of 109 F (42.7 C).

Those high temperatures can be deadly for people who have been on strenuous journeys.

Some smugglers lead migrants on longer routes into gullies or by the towering Mount Cristo Rey statue of Jesus Christ that casts a shadow over neighboring Mexico.

Deputy Chief Border Patrol Agent Juan Bernal of the El Paso Sector said migrants are weak when they arrive at the border after weeks or months without adequate food and water in houses smugglers keep in Mexico.

"They're expected to walk,

sometimes for hours or days, to get to their destination where they're going to be picked up," he said.

The deaths have continued even as migration has fallen along the entire border following Biden's major asylum restrictions.

New Mexico's migrant death numbers now rival those in Arizona's even hotter Sonoran desert, where the remains of 114 presumed border crossers were discovered during the first eight months of 2024, according to a mapping project by the nonprofit Humane Borders and the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office in Tucson.

Nearly half of those who died in New Mexico this year were women. Women ages 20 to 29 made up the largest segment of these deaths.

"We are awaiting for you at home," a family in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas implored in early June in a missing person post for a 25-year-old female relative who was found dead days later. "Please come back."

After a 24-year-old Guatemalan woman's remains were discovered that same month, a mortuary in her hometown posted a death notice with a photo of her smiling in a blue dress and holding a floral bouquet.

"It should not be a death sentence to come to the United States," Doña Ana County Sheriff's Maj. Jon Day told a recent community gathering. "And when we push them into the desert areas here, they're coming across and they're dying." □

U.S. warns Israel to boost humanitarian aid into Gaza or risk losing weapons funding

By TARA COPP, MATTHEW LEE and LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration has warned Israel that it must increase the amount of humanitarian aid it is allowing into Gaza within the next 30 days or it could risk losing access to U.S. weapons funding.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned their Israeli counterparts in a letter dated Sunday that the changes must occur. The letter, which restates U.S. policy toward humanitarian aid and arms transfers, was sent amid deteriorating conditions in northern Gaza and an Israeli airstrike on a hospital tent site in central Gaza that killed at least four people and burned others.

A similar letter that Blinken sent to Israeli officials in April led to more humanitarian assistance getting to the Palestinian territory, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Tuesday. But that has not lasted. "In fact, it's fallen by over 50% from where it was at its peak," Miller said at a briefing. Blinken and Austin "thought it was appropriate to make clear to the government of Israel that there are changes that they need to make again, to see that the level of assistance making it into Gaza comes back up from the very, very low levels that it is at today."

For Israel to continue qualifying for foreign military financing, the level of aid getting into Gaza must increase to at least 350 trucks a day, Israel must institute additional humanitarian pauses and provide increased security for humanitarian sites, Austin and Blinken said in their letter. They said Israel had 30 days to respond to the requirements. "The letter was not meant as a threat," White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

"The letter was simply meant to reiterate the



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at a news conference during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos, Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

Associated Press

sense of urgency we feel and the seriousness with which we feel it, about the need for an increase, a dramatic increase in humanitarian assistance."

An Israeli official confirmed a letter had been delivered but did not discuss the contents. That official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a diplomatic matter, confirmed the U.S. had raised "humanitarian concerns" and was putting pressure on Israel to speed up the flow of aid into Gaza.

The letter, which an Axios reporter posted a copy of online, was sent during a period of growing frustration in the administration that despite repeated and increasingly vocal requests to scale back offensive operations against Hamas, Israel's bombardment has led to unnecessary civilian deaths and risks plunging the region into a much wider war.

"We are particularly concerned that recent actions by the Israeli government, including halting commercial imports, denying or impeding 90 percent of humanitarian movements" and other restrictions have kept aid from flowing, Blinken and Austin said.

The Biden administration is increasing its calls for its ally and biggest recipient of U.S. military aid to ease

the humanitarian crisis in Gaza while assuring that America's support for Israel is unwavering just before the U.S. presidential election in three weeks.

Funding for Israel has long carried weight in U.S. politics, and Biden said this month that "no administration has helped Israel more than I have."

Humanitarian aid groups fear that Israeli leaders may approve a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas, which could trap hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who are unwilling or unable to leave their homes without food, water, medicine and fuel. □

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FEMA resumes door-to-door visits in North Carolina after threats tied to disinformation

By MAKIYA SEMINERA and SARAH BRUMFIELD
Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Federal disaster personnel have resumed door-to-door visits as part of their hurricane-recovery work in North Carolina, an effort temporarily suspended amid threats that prompted officials to condemn the spread of disinformation. Over the weekend, reports emerged that workers with the Federal Emergency Management Agency could be targeted by militia as the government responds to Hurricane Helene. A sheriff's office said Monday that one man was arrested during an investigation, but that the suspect acted alone.

FEMA made operational changes to keep personnel safe "out of an abundance of caution," agency Administrator Deanne Criswell said at a briefing Tuesday. FEMA workers were back in the field Monday, accompanied by Criswell, and she said disaster-assistance teams helping survivors apply for FEMA aid as well as state and local assistance will continue to go door-to-door. She emphasized that the agency isn't going anywhere.

"The federal family has been here working side by side with the state since Day One. These are people who put their lives on hold to help those who have lost



People gather at a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville, N.C., Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

everything," Criswell said. "So let me be clear. I take these threats seriously."

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said he directed the state's Department of Public Safety to coordinate law enforcement assistance for FEMA and other responders.

He stressed the damage that internet rumors and falsehoods were causing and said officials may never know how many people won't apply for assistance because of bad information.

"There's still a persistent and dangerous flow of misinformation about recovery efforts in western

North Carolina that can lead to threats and intimidation, breeds confusion and demoralizes storm survivors and response workers alike," Cooper said at the briefing. "If you're participating in spreading this stuff, stop it. Whatever your aim is, the people you are really hurting are those in western North Carolina who need help."

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office said it received a call Saturday about a man with an assault rifle who made a comment "about possibly harming" FEMA employees working in the hard-hit areas of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock in the

North Carolina mountains. A man was charged with "going armed to the terror of the public," a misdemeanor, and was released after posting bond.

The sheriff's office said it received initial reports that a "truckload of militia" was involved in the threat, but further investigation determined the man acted alone.

FEMA has faced rampant disinformation about its response to Helene, which hit Florida on Sept. 26 before heading north and leaving a trail of destruction across six states.

Asked what might be fueling disinformation, Cooper

said social media has become more extreme, but he also pointed to politics. "This is happening in the middle of an election where candidates are using people's misery to sow chaos for their own political objectives — and it's wrong," he said.

Former President Donald Trump and his allies have seized on the storm's aftermath to spread false information about the Biden administration's response in the final weeks before the election. Their debunked claims include false statements that victims can only receive \$750 in aid, that emergency response funds were diverted to immigrants, that people accepting federal relief money could see their land seized and that FEMA is halting trucks full of supplies.

Helene decimated remote towns throughout Appalachia, left millions without power, knocked out cellular service and killed at least 246 people. It was the deadliest hurricane to hit the U.S. mainland since Katrina in 2005.

Terrie Daughtry, a volunteer handling therapy dogs Tuesday at a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Asheville, said threats and misinformation including the militia rumors made her feel unsafe for the first time in several trips to volunteer at disaster sites. □



Travis Gienger, of Anoka, Minn., middle, celebrates after his pumpkin weighed in at 2,471 pounds to win at the Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Monday, Oct. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Pumpkin weighing 2,471 pounds wins California contest

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. (AP) — A Minnesota horticulture teacher remained the reigning champion Monday of an annual pumpkin-weighing contest in Northern California where his massive gourds have won the top prize four years in a row.

Travis Gienger, of Anoka, Minnesota, beat his closest competitor by 6 pounds (2.7 kilograms) to clinch the victory at the 51st World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco. His winning gourd came in at 2,471 pounds (1,121 kilograms), falling short of the world record he set last year with a pumpkin weighing 2,749 pounds (1,247 kilograms).

Gienger, 44, said that as he has done in the past, he focused on having healthy soil and well-fed plants but that a cold fall with record-breaking rain likely impacted his pumpkin's growth.

"We had really, really tough weather and somehow, some way, I kept on working," Gienger said. "I had to work for this one, and we got it done at the end, but it wasn't by much." Gienger and his family drove his gargantuan gourd for 35 hours to California. He said the giant pumpkin's next stop will be in Southern California, where a team of professional carvers will do a 3D carve on it at a Halloween event. □

Southern Africa is enduring its worst hunger crisis in decades due to El Niño, the U.N. says

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — Months of drought in southern Africa triggered by the El Niño weather phenomenon have had a devastating impact on more than 27 million people and caused the region's worst hunger crisis in decades, the United Nations' food agency said Tuesday. The World Food Program warned it could become a "full-scale human catastrophe."

Five countries Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe have declared national disasters over the drought and resultant hunger. The WFP estimates that about 21 million children in southern Africa are now malnourished as crops have failed.

Tens of millions in the region rely on small-scale agriculture that is irrigated by rain for their food and to make money to buy provisions. Aid agencies warned of a potential disaster late last year as the naturally occurring El Niño led to below-average rainfall across the region, while its impact has been exacerbated by warming temperatures linked to climate change.



Baobab trees stand in Chirundu, Zambia, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

Associated Press

"This is the worst food crisis in decades," WFP spokesperson Tomson Phiri said. "October in southern Africa marks the start of the lean season, and each month is expected to be worse than the previous one until harvests next year in March and April. Crops have failed, livestock have perished and children are lucky to receive one meal per day."

The five countries that de-

clared drought-related disasters have pleaded for international aid, while Angola on the west coast of Africa and Mozambique on the east coast are also "severely affected," Phiri said, showing the extent to which the drought has swept across the region.

"The situation is dire," Phiri said. He said the WFP needs around \$369 million to provide immediate help but has only received a

fifth of that amid a shortfall in donations. The WFP has begun helping with food assistance and other critical support at the request of various governments in the region, he said.

Phiri said southern Africa's crisis came at a time of "soaring global needs," with humanitarian aid also desperately required in Gaza, Sudan and elsewhere.

Other aid agencies have

said the drought in southern Africa is especially harsh, with the United States aid agency, USAID, saying in June it was the most severe drought in 100 years during the January to March agricultural season, wiping out swathes of crops and food for millions.

El Niño, a weather phenomenon which warms parts of the central Pacific, has different impacts on weather in different parts of the world. The latest El Niño formed in the middle of last year and ended in June. It was blamed, along with human-caused climate change and overall ocean warmth, for a wild 12 months of heat waves and extreme weather.

In southern Africa, food prices have risen sharply in many areas affected by the drought, increasing the hardship. The drought has also had other damaging effects.

Zambia has lost much of its electricity and has been plunged into hours and sometimes days of blackouts because it relies heavily on hydroelectric power from the huge Kariba Dam. The water level of the dam is so low that it can hardly generate any power. □

Head of Myanmar's military government urges ethnic rebels to join peace talks

BANGKOK (AP) — The head of Myanmar's military government on Tuesday invited ethnic rebels to hold peace talks to end armed conflict across the country, the second time in less than a month that the ruling generals have publicly promoted negotiations.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing's proposal was broadcast on state television on the ninth anniversary of the signing of its nationwide cease-fire agreement. About half of the nation's 21 established ethnic armed organizations agreed to the pact but some no longer honor it.

Last month, the military announced its most direct invitation for peace talks since it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. It was aimed at the broader pro-democracy forces that have also taken up arms as well as the ethnic groups, but was quickly rejected.

In Tuesday's brief broadcast, Min Aung

Hlaing said the ruling military council will only follow the framework of its existing cease-fire agreement for peace and appealed to the ethnic armed groups to negotiate their issues through dialogue.

"Wishes can't be demanded through armed violence, but through dialogue at the political table with peaceful means to resolve the conflict," Min Aung Hlaing said. Myanmar for several decades has seen a cycle of cease-fires bringing in intermittent periods of relative peace, but none have led to a comprehensive political settlement that would grant the ethnic groups the degree of autonomy they seek in the frontier regions where they are dominant. The army is currently on the defensive against ethnic militias in much of the country, as well as hundreds of armed guerrilla groups collectively called People's Defense Forces, formed to fight to restore democracy after the army takeover. □



In this photo released by Myanmar Military True News Information Team, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar military leader, delivers video speech to mark the 9th anniversary of signing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement- NCA with 8 Ethnic Armed Organizations, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Associated Press

Mexican president acknowledges army killings of 3 civilians in a violent border city

By **FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's new president acknowledged Tuesday that three civilians including a child died in two shootouts involving the military last week in a violent border city.

President Claudia Sheinbaum said a soldier was killed in one of the shootouts, as well as two adults and an 8-year-old girl. She said the events on Friday and Saturday are under investigation. But Sheinbaum gave no sign of backing away from the outsized role that she and her predecessor have given to the armed forces.

The events in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, started Friday when a nurse, her husband and son found themselves on a road where soldiers were pursuing suspects' vehicles. The husband, Víctor Carrillo Martínez, told local media there was a confrontation and his wife died in the crossfire.

Sheinbaum said the soldier was apparently killed in an exchange of gunfire.

"It had to do with criminals who opened fire on an army vehicle," she said.

"It is very important to say that Nuevo Laredo is where



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives a media briefing from the National Palace in Mexico City, Oct. 2, 2024, the morning after her inauguration.

criminal groups have carried out the most attacks on the army and the National Guard."

The city has long been in the grip of the Northeast Cartel, an offshoot of the old Zetas gang.

The second incident in Nuevo Laredo happened Saturday, when the 8-year-old and her grandmother were driving to a store and were caught in the middle of a pursuit by soldiers or National

Guard officers.

The grandmother told reporters that a military vehicle was pursuing an SUV and her car got stuck between them and the military opened fire. The Human Rights Commission of Nuevo Laredo said a young man's tortured body was found nearby in a truck that the army and National Guard had been pursuing. Sheinbaum confirmed the two deaths, saying the shootings had involved the

militarized National Guard. "In case there has been any misbehavior by any member of the guard or the army, or any official, it will be punished," she said.

The Defense Department, which control the National Guard, said it had no immediate comment on the shootings.

Last week, the army was involved in another shooting that killed six migrants and wounded 10. In the incident

Associated Press

near Tapachula, close to the border with Guatemala, soldiers claimed they heard "detonations" and opened fire on a truck carrying migrants from Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India, Pakistan and El Salvador.

The dead included an 11-year-old Egyptian girl. The area is often used by migrant smugglers, but warring drug cartels also operate in the region.

Former president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who left office Sept. 30, gave the military an unprecedentedly wide role in public life and law enforcement.

He created the militarized Guard and used the combined forces as the country's main law enforcement agencies, supplanting police.

Military analyst Juan Ibarrola said such incidents did not indicate a lack of discipline on the part of the army, but rather reflected the severity of attacks that soldiers deal with in some parts of Mexico. "This is not a lack of training. Remember, Mexican soldiers have been in the streets and on the highways for 30 years," Ibarrola said. "A soldier knows very well he will not escape justice, unlike some others in Mexico." □

A gang leader in Haiti is injured in a shootout with Haitian and Kenyan police

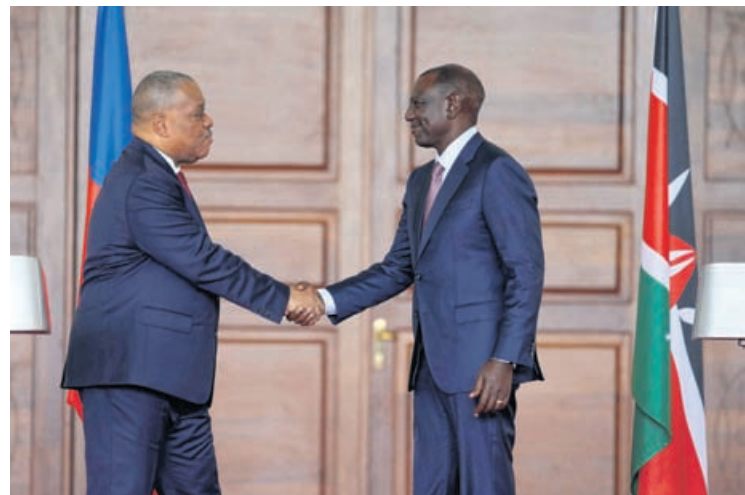
By **EVENS SANON**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A leader of one of Haiti's

most powerful gangs was injured in a shootout with Haitian and Kenyan police in their first major incursion



Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille, left, and Kenya's President William Ruto, right, shake hands after a joint meeting at State House in Nairobi, Kenya, Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

Associated Press

into gang-controlled territory since a U.N.-backed mission began earlier this year, police said Tuesday. The second-in-command of the Kraze Baryè gang, known simply as "Deshommes," was shot in Torcelle, a community the gang controls in the southeast region of the capital Port-au-Prince, Haiti National Police said in a statement Tuesday.

Some 20 other gang members were killed during the police operations, which occurred on Saturday and Monday, officials said, adding that they confiscated firearms, munitions, phones and "sensitive materials and equipment." Nobody was detained in the opera-

tions, and police didn't say how they know that Deshommes was injured.

Police said the incursions would continue until the gang and its top leader, Vitel'Homme Innocent, could be neutralized.

In a statement, the Kenyans who are leading the mission called on Innocent to "stop committing atrocities against innocent Haitians." "(The mission) is sending a strong warning to key gang leaders to stop the barbarous acts of rapes, extortion, kidnapping, blackmail and killings," they said.

Innocent has been sanctioned by the U.S., the European Union and the U.N. Security Council, with the U.S. offering a \$2 million re-

ward for information leading to his capture. He has been indicted in the U.S. for the armed kidnapping of 16 Christian missionaries in 2021 and the slaying of missionary Marie Franklin and kidnapping of her husband in 2022. In a recent video, Innocent stands near an armored vehicle set on fire that police said they were forced to abandon due to engine failure during one of their operations.

Innocent claimed the gang was not giving police any problems and accused them of "hurting too many innocent people." He also said the gang has the power to decide who enters and leaves the community it controls. □



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The Caribbean Poker Series 2024 Breaks Records with Successful 11-Day Event

The Caribbean Poker Series 2024 has officially come to a close after an action-packed 11 days, marking another record-breaking year! This year's event not only exceeded expectations in competition but also in its commitment to the community, and we are incredibly proud of what we accomplished together.

Over the course of the series, we awarded 16 championship rings, with two of those going to local talent—showcasing the incredible poker skills in our region. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the Main Event, where Kathryn Lindsay took home the coveted title and a grand prize of \$102,915, after a thrilling display of poker strategy and tenacity.

In addition to the intense poker action, this year's event had a special focus on giving back. We're thrilled to announce that we raised AWG 5,780 for the Luna Foundation, a charity dedicated to helping stray dogs in Aruba. Thank you to all the participants who donated and helped support this important cause. Your generosity will go



a long way in improving the lives of animals in need. The festivities weren't all about poker. Players and guests enjoyed the Meet & Greet Party, which was a fun and social highlight of the series, giving everyone a chance to relax, connect, and share their love of the game in the beautiful Aruba

setting.

We're already looking ahead to next year! The Caribbean Poker Series 2025 will be held from September 18 to September 28, 2025, and promises to be even bigger and better. Be sure to visit our website and follow us on social media to book your



rooms and secure your spot early for another unforgettable experience.

About The Caribbean Poker Series

The Caribbean Poker Series is an annual poker tournament held in Aruba, attracting players from around the world. With world-class poker

events and a stunning tropical setting, it's a must-attend event for poker enthusiasts of all levels.

For more information and to book your room for the 2025 event, please visit [www.tcaruba.com](#) and follow us on our social media platforms for updates. □

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) □



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Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

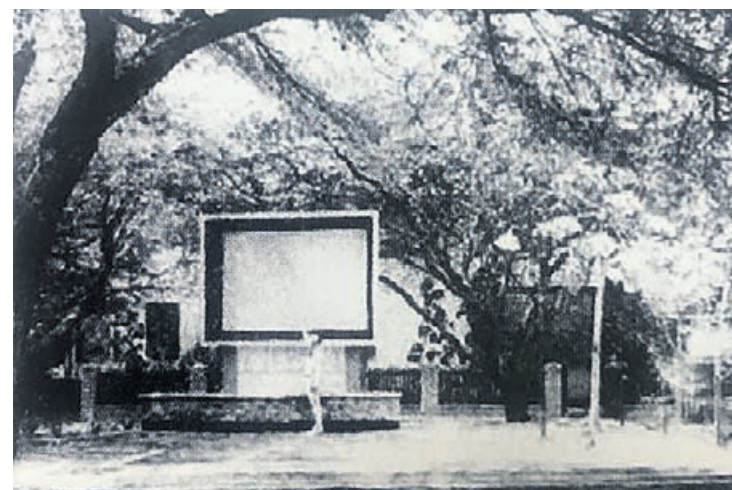
The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the



Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of



the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi.

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that



is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat,

Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flee markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of

the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.



4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit:
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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional

purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Gerald and Gina from New Smyrna Beach, Florida, USA.

Gerald wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is enjoying evenings on the sand catching a beautiful sunset with my wife..."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamentu means welcome, and is probably

the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamentu. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamentu means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influences from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our

last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Mangrove forests or mangrove swamps

Episode CCLXXV - 275

Etnia Nativa offers a unique native experience opportunity that blends education and entertainment. Interact with our exclusive team accessing a beautiful private property made with repurposed materials sorted by its concept developer, our top columnist, avocational archaeologist, and island's cultural expert. Choose to dive deep into the navel of Aruba!

During this episode, Etnia Nativa brings awareness regarding the value of our mangroves, which keep coastal zones protected and healthy. These are just a tiny fraction of what our mangrove forest used to be, however, providing essential habitat for thousands of species. They also stabilize shorelines, preventing erosion and protecting the land and the people who live in the area from waves and storms, especially during extreme weather events, acting as a powerful shield against storms, hurricanes, and tsunamis.

Aruba's mangroves have suffered very during the building of Willemstad, the capital city of our sister island, Curacao. The whole forest was cut down and sent for firewood for the burning of lime, which was used in construction.

For the inhabitants of Thailand, for example, the importance of mangroves is so great that they call them "the roots of the sea," and the fishermen there have a saying that goes like this: "If there are no mangrove forests, the sea will have no meaning. It is like having a tree with no roots, for the mangroves are the roots of the sea."

The reality is that they form transition vegetation from sea to land, offering great protection to tropical islands and continental shorelines, estuaries, and lagoons of tropical latitude. Some varieties are trees, while others are shrubs that can grow below the maximum level of tides and are very tolerant to the high salinity of sea water. Together, their forests form a separate and unique echo system in their own right.

They protect both the saltwater and the freshwater ecosystems they straddle. The mangroves' complex



root systems filter nitrates and phosphates that rainwater, rivers, and streams carry to the sea. They also keep seawater from encroaching on inland waterways.

According to experts, mangroves capture and store 34 million tons of carbon globally, which represents a great contribution to the fight against climate change and global heat. They promote biodiversity as they serve as a habitat in its entirety, above and under water. Many types of fish, crabs, shrimp, and mollusks inhabit its roots; birds also find a favorable habitat in the mangrove branches. They also provide spawning grounds for fish and crustaceans on nearby coral reefs and offer them shelter during the early stages of life.

Mangrove forests provide many of the resources upon which coastal people depend for their survival and livelihood. At low tide, people can walk across the tide flats to collect crabs, shellfish, and shrimp. At high tide, fish move in to feed among the protection of mangrove roots, turning the marshy

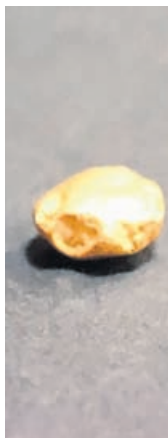
land into rich fishing grounds. The mangrove trees themselves provide fuel, medicines, tannins, and wood for building houses and boats.

Recent studies have shown that mangroves can be used for biotechnology. And due to its tolerance to salinity, the possibility of transferring genes taken from mangrove species to certain foods, such as rice, has been studied to develop new varieties of crops, generating new opportunities for coastal farmers. However, we must also keep in mind that mangroves are very susceptible to drastic change and delicate because they require an environment in balance to survive. This means that they require an appropriate concentration of fresh and salt water to thrive. The rise in sea level as a consequence of climate change causes a saline imbalance in the mangrove habitat that makes their survival difficult in addition to pollution caused by man and the overexploitation of resources. All this endangers these species, which are among the most diverse and productive in the world, offering so many benefits that they undoubtedly deserve governmental commitment and our protection.



If you liked our native stories and are interested in diving deeper into learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. We have been a trendsetting entity since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper shares our valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through our real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls to the bone. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com □

In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 NASA
1 Reef vehicle materials
7 Bloke sound
11 Portugal's place
12 Road division
13 Egotist's offense
14 Price to play
15 Mirror sight
16 Cap feature
17 Refrain bit
18 Surname in punk rock
19 Swamp croaker
21 Top
22 Sudden surprise, informally
25 Even score
26 Valiant one
27 Gives an address
29 Walrus feature
33 Fido's pal
34 Coup group
35 "Law & Order: SVU" co-star

DOWN

- 1 Polite
2 44th president
3 Of the kidneys
4 Japanese "thanks"
5 Lo-cal
6 Utter
7 Assert
8 Role for Ford

- 9 Shake-speare's merchant
10 Gazed
16 DARTH —
18 Yard tools
20 Earthy shade
22 Mediterranean wind
23 Forcible ejection
24 Capitol feature
25 Sunak's group
28 Wyoming's — Range
30 Loosened
31 Carell of movies
32 Writer Blixen
34 Tarzan's love
36 Went ahead

R	A	N	C	H		F	O	Y	E	R
O	M	A	H	A		I	N	A	N	E
G	E	T	I	T		B	E	N	D	S
E	L	I		C	H	E		K	I	T
R	I	O		H	E	R		E	V	E
S	A	N	D	E	R		D	E	E	D
			A	R	T	E	M	I	S	
B	A	L	E		T	I	P	T	O	P
A	D	S		F	I	N		A	R	A
N	A	P		I	C	E		D	E	S
A	G	A	I	N		R	A	I	L	S
N	E	R	V	E		A	M	U	S	E
A	S	K	E	D		L	I	M	E	S

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
15						16				
17						18				
			19	20					21	
	22	23					24			
25				26						
27			28				29	30	31	32
33						34				
35						36				
37						38				
39						40				

3-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

F Z N O M R T M U K W N V I

B T W G I T N , U W S W E T W P A

U T N T P T M P F P T I F Z N .

— NWOQI BWOAF TKTNUPP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THAT WHEN ONE'S MIND IS MADE UP, THIS DIMINISHES FEAR. — ROSA PARKS

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

8	9					4		5
		4		6		1	3	
			9	5				
		3		7				
9		2	1			6	7	
4					3		1	
2			5		6	7		
3			7	8		2		4
		1					5	

Difficulty: ★★★

10/16

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Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	6	1	5	4	9	8	2
9	8	4	7	2	3	5	6	1
2	5	1	6	9	8	4	3	7
8	1	2	9	7	6	3	5	4
5	4	9	8	3	1	7	2	6
7	6	3	2	4	5	1	9	8
6	9	8	3	1	7	2	4	5
4	3	7	5	6	2	8	1	9
1	2	5	4	8	9	6	7	3

Difficulty: ★★

10/15

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Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

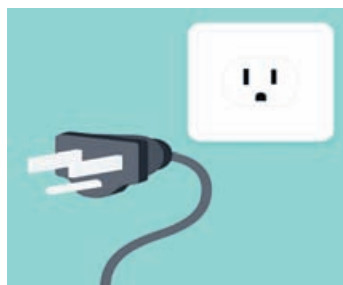


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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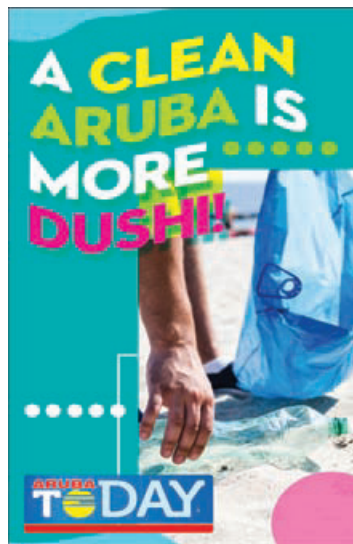
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WK 7 and 14 - all views
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2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000
GOLD SEASON
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2 Bed Ocean view \$15,000
1 Bed Oceanfront \$13,000
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How the tiny Caribbean island of Anguilla has turned the AI boom into a digital gold mine

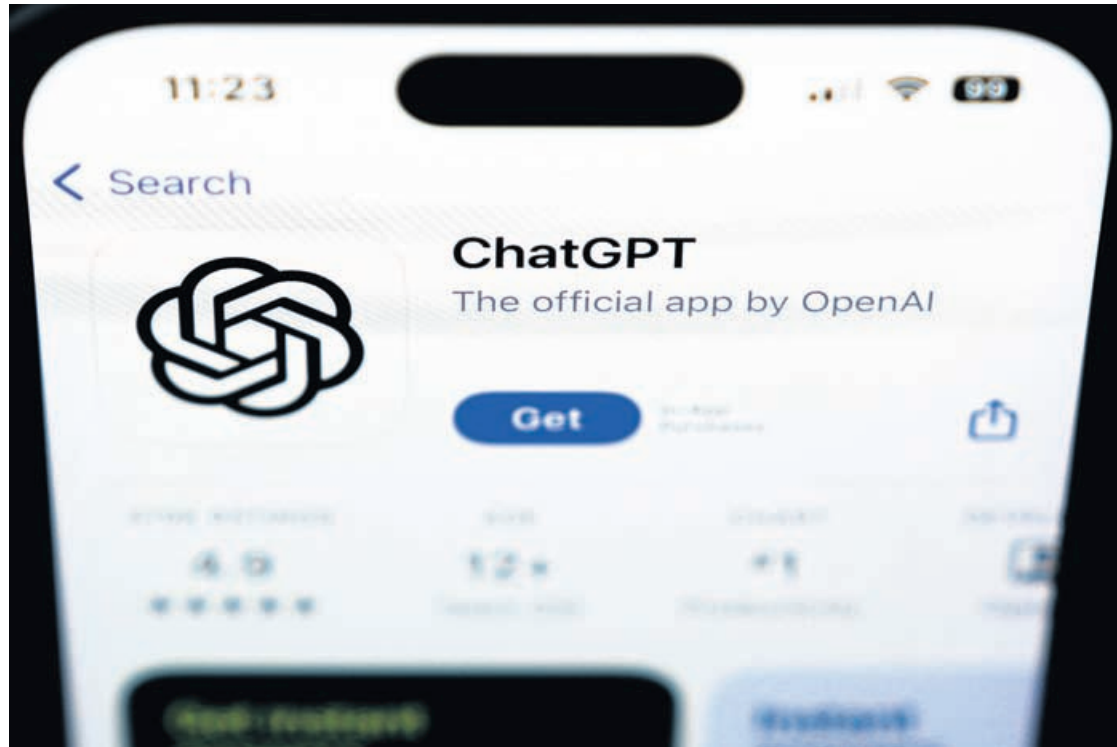
By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

The artificial intelligence boom has benefited chatbot makers, computer scientists and Nvidia investors. It's also providing an unusual windfall for Anguilla, a tiny island in the Caribbean.

ChatGPT's debut nearly two years ago heralded the dawn of the AI age and kicked off a digital gold rush as companies scrambled to stake their own claims by acquiring websites that end in .ai.

That's where Anguilla comes in. The British territory was allotted control of the .ai internet address in the 1990s. It was one of hundreds of obscure top-level domains assigned to individual countries and territories based on their names. While the domains are supposed to indicate a website has a link to a particular region or language, it's not always a requirement.

Google uses google.ai to showcase its artificial intelligence services while Elon Musk uses x.ai as the homepage for his Grok AI chatbot. Startups like AI search engine Perplexity have also snapped up .ai web addresses, redirecting users from the .com version. Anguilla's earnings from



A ChatGPT logo is seen on a smartphone in West Chester, Pa., Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

web domain registration fees quadrupled last year to \$32 million, fueled by the surging interest in AI. The income now accounts for about 20% of Anguilla's total government revenue. Before the AI boom, it hovered at around 5%.

Anguilla's government, which uses the gov.ai home page, collects a fee every time a .ai web address is renewed, Identity Digital Chief Strategy Officer Ram Mohan said. The fee \$140 for two years

won't change. It also gets paid when new addresses are registered and expired ones are sold off. Some sites have fetched tens of thousands of dollars.

The money directly boosts the economy of Anguilla, which is just 35 square miles (91 square kilometers) and has a population of about 16,000. Blessed with coral reefs, clear waters and palm-fringed white sand beaches, the island is a haven for uber-wealthy tourists. Still, many residents are

underprivileged and tourism has been battered by the pandemic and, before that, a powerful hurricane. Anguilla doesn't have its own AI industry though Premier Ellis Webster hopes that one day it will become an hub for the technology. He said it was just luck that it was Anguilla, and not nearby Antigua, that was assigned the .ai domain in 1995 because both places had those letters in their names.

Webster said the money

takes the pressure off government finances and helps fund key projects, but cautioned that "we can't rely on it solely."

"You can't predict how long this is going to last," Webster said in an interview with the AP. "And so I don't want to have our economy and our country and all our programs just based on this. And then all of a sudden there's a new fad comes up in the next year or two, and then we are left now having to make significant expenditure cuts, removing programs."

To help keep up with the explosive growth in domain registrations, Anguilla said Tuesday it's signing a deal with a U.S.-based domain management company, Identity Digital, to help manage the effort. They said the agreement will mean more revenue for the government while improving the resilience and security of the web addresses. Identity Digital, which also manages Australia's .au domain, expects to migrate all .ai domain services to its systems by the start of next year, Mohan said in an interview.

A local software entrepreneur had previously helped Anguilla set up its registry system decades earlier. □

Meta hit with \$102 million privacy fine from European Union over 2019 password security lapse



In this May 16, 2012, file photo, the Facebook logo is displayed on a mobile device in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Meta was punished Friday with a fine worth more than \$100 million from the social media giant's European Union privacy regulator over a security lapse involving passwords for Facebook users. The Irish Data Protection Commission said it slapped the U.S. tech company with the 91 million euro (\$101.6 million) penalty following an investigation.

The watchdog started investigating in 2019 after it was notified by Meta that some passwords had been inadvertently stored internally in plain text, which means they weren't en-

cryptured and it was possible for employees to search for them. Deputy Commissioner Graham Doyle said it's "widely accepted" that user passwords should not be stored in plain text, "considering the risks of abuse." Meta said a security review found that a "subset" of Facebook users' passwords were "temporarily logged in a readable format."

"We took immediate action to fix this error, and there is no evidence that these passwords were abused or accessed improperly," the company said in a statement. "We proactively flagged this issue to

our lead regulator, the Irish Data Protection Commission, and have engaged constructively with them throughout this inquiry."

It's the latest in a series of hefty fines for Meta and its social media platforms from the Dublin-based watchdog, which is the company's lead regulator under the 27-nation EU's stringent data privacy rulebook. They include a 405 million euro fine for Instagram over mishandling teen data, a 5.5 million euro penalty involving WhatsApp and a 1.2 billion euro fine for Meta over transatlantic data transfers. □

Masters might want to rethink invitations to PGA Tour winners in the fall: Analysis

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Tour refers to this portion of the season as the FedEx Cup Fall. It might as well be known as the road easier traveled to Augusta National.

The fields are weak. The reward is not.

Patton Kizzire was No. 257 in the world ranking and fighting to keep his PGA Tour card when he put together four good rounds at the Procore Championship and faced very little stress in a five-shot victory over David Lipsky, who checked in at No. 277 in the world.

That gets him into the Masters for the first time since 2019.

At the next fall stop, Kevin Yu No. 135 in the world hit the shot of his life to 6 feet for birdie to win a playoff at the Sanderson Farms Championship over Beau Hossler, who played his 200th event on the PGA Tour without winning.

Yu can look forward to that cream-colored envelope from Augusta National in December.

They will be joined by Matt McCarty, who has experienced a life-changing three months.

McCarty won for the first time in his third year on the Korn Ferry Tour in July, and then he won twice more to earn an instant promotion



Kevin Yu, of Taiwan, holds the Sanderson Farms Championship trophy following his win of the 2024 tournament hosted at the Country Club of Jackson on Sunday, Oct. 06, 2024, in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

to the PGA Tour. In his second start, he won the new Black Desert Championship in Utah with wonderful lag putting to ease stress and a 3-wood on a reachable par 4 to 3 1/2 feet for eagle that effectively clinched it. Not since Jason Gore in 2005 has a player won three times in the minor leagues and then picked off a PGA Tour title in the same season. The future looks bright for the 26-year-old lefty from Arizona. He was at No. 257 in the world three months ago. Now he's at No. 47.

But there is no denying the field strength at Black Desert. It was the weakest of the year on the PGA Tour except for the opposite-field events.

This is not a new development.

Augusta National restored invitations to PGA Tour winners after the 2007 Masters, but the biggest favor came when the tour went to a wraparound schedule six fall tournaments after the Tour Championship and the club awarded Masters invitation to those winners. There have been 87 fall

events excluding the U.S. Open and Masters in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic dating to 2013. Twenty-five winners, or roughly 29%, have been outside the top 100 in the world ranking.

Ten of them were outside the top 250.

The only contender at the Masters the following year was Smylie Kaufman. He shot 61 on the final day in Las Vegas to win at No. 226 in the world. And then at the 2016 Masters, he was in the final group with Jordan Spieth and shot 81 (it didn't

end well for Spieth, either). Is it time for Augusta National to rethink invitations to winners in the fall?

Winning is hard on the PGA Tour in any month, and playing the Masters is a carrot as juicy as the two-year exemption.

And it's not like the Masters should be concerned with the size of its field, which it prefers to be under 100. The average field size since Augusta National began inviting fall winners on the PGA Tour is 90.6, with a high of 97 in 2014 and 2015.

But times (and money) have changed in recent years as the PGA Tour tries to get its best players together more often, especially late in the year. Those who finish in the top 50 in the FedEx Cup are assured of being in all the \$20 million signature events.

The fall has no bearing on the top 50, so there is little incentive to play. Only nine players from the top 50 have played in the FedEx Cup Fall, four of them in Napa, California, ahead of the Presidents Cup. Five more are playing this week in Las Vegas.

The fall used to include some of the biggest purses, whether it was a World Golf Championship in Shanghai or limited fields in Japan and South Korea and Malaysia. □



his head and devices on his arms in the dugout during practice Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, a day before Game 3 of a baseball NL Division Series against the San Diego Padres in San Diego.

Associated Press

Kershaw says he plans to return to Dodgers for 18th season in 2025

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw says he plans to return to the Los Angeles Dodgers for his 18th season next year.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner isn't pitching in the current playoffs because of a bone spur in his left big toe that sidelined him for the final month of the regular season.

The 36-year-old left-hander made just seven starts this year, going 2-2 with a 4.50 ERA both career lows.

Last November, Kershaw had left shoulder surgery and the subsequent recovery kept him out of action until July 25. By Aug. 31, the 10-time All-Star was on the injured list with the toe injury.

"My shoulder and elbow, everything, my arm feels great," he said on Fox's pregame telecast Monday.

"Obviously, I had some tough luck with my foot this year but I want to make use of this surgery. I don't want to have surgery and then shut it down. I'm going to come back next year and give it a go and see how it goes."

In February, Kershaw signed a one-year contract with a player option for 2025. He had a \$5 million base salary this season and earned \$2.5 million in performance bonuses, and the deal includes an option he can exercise for a \$10 million base salary in 2025.

Kershaw would get a \$1 million bonus for each start next year from 11-25.

He's spent his entire career with the Dodgers, although he has missed chunks of time in recent years because of a series of injuries. □



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Jets acquire wide receiver Davante Adams from Raiders, AP sources say

By **DENNIS WASZAK Jr.**
AP Pro Football Writer

Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams are finally reunited after more than two years of separation and one year of speculation and now they'll try to save the New York Jets' sinking season.

The Jets agreed to terms Tuesday to acquire the disgruntled Adams from the Las Vegas Raiders, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

"We're back, man," Adams said while briefly joining Rodgers at the Jets' facility in Florham Park, New Jersey, for the quarterback's weekly appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show." "We're back."

New York is sending a conditional third-round pick in next year's draft that could become a second-rounder, but it is pending a physical for the wide receiver, one of the people told the AP on condition of anonymity because the teams didn't announce the deal. NFL Network was the first to report the trade.

"Obviously, I'm really excited," said Rodgers, who got a call from Adams a few hours after the Jets' 23-20 loss to Buffalo on Monday night.

The 31-year-old Adams immediately boosts a Jets offense that has been inconsistent through the first part of the season. The three-time All-Pro joins Garrett Wilson to give Rodgers two No. 1-caliber wide receivers to throw to, complementing fellow receivers Mike Williams, Allen Lazard and Xavier Gipson, tight end Tyler Conklin and running backs Breece Hall and Braelon Allen.

"It's on us now," Rodgers



Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams (17) misses a catch attempt against the Baltimore Ravens during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Baltimore.
Associated Press

said. "We're going all in." Adams, who missed the Raiders' last three games with a hamstring injury, reportedly told the team he wanted out of Las Vegas and the team was willing to accommodate his request. "I'm feeling great, man," Adams said, adding he got lots of treatment from the Raiders' training staff. "Fortunately, I'll be able to roll." And now he's back with Rodgers, the quarterback with whom he enjoyed eight seasons of success catching passes from in Green Bay.

"He's made me look good a lot of times," Rodgers said. "We got better today." It seemed inevitable, especially when the Jets reportedly showed interest in Adams last year at the NFL trade deadline. Rodgers said at a celebrity golf tournament over the summer: "I love Davante."

I can't wait to play with him ... again." With a smile,

Rodgers said during training camp he meant on the golf course, but it was enough to fuel speculation that at some point somehow the Jets would move to bring in Adams. The deal came less than 12 hours after the Jets lost 23-20 to the Buffalo Bills, a game in which Rodgers threw a Hail Mary just before halftime but also was intercepted on New York's final drive for the second straight week. It was a game marked by penalties, mistakes and missed opportunities on offense, and dropped the Jets to 2-4 amid in a three-game skid.

"It's frustrating," Rodgers said. "I'm here to win those games, but we've got to be on our details. It's little things every single time." The trade also caps what has been a tumultuous last seven days for the Jets. Two days after losing to Minnesota in London, owner

Woody Johnson fired head coach Robert Saleh on Tuesday and defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich was tapped to replace him as the interim. Ulbrich then demoted offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett and replaced him with pass game coordinator Todd Downing on Wednesday. And now the Jets have made a major deal to bring in Adams, one of Rodgers' best friends and favorite teammates. Adams has caught 615 passes from Rodgers for 7,517 yards and 68 touchdowns, all in Green Bay. That's the most in all three categories between any combination of active players. Adams' departure from Las Vegas was expected after reports surfaced that he no longer wanted to be there and the Jets immediately became a likely landing spot because of his relationship with Rodgers. In his weekly appearance

on the "Up & Adams Show" two weeks ago, Adams said he hadn't heard from Antonio Pierce since the Raiders coach appeared to like a social media post about possibly trading Adams.

That was the first sure sign that a split could be coming, though an Adams trade has long been speculated given several statements he has made for more than a year. That included clear frustration he showed on the Netflix documentary series "Receiver" in which Adams' season was among those featured.

Adams remains one of the NFL's top receivers, even at nearly 32, because of his precise route running and ability to catch passes, even while double teamed. He caught 103 passes last season for 1,144 yards and eight touchdowns. It was his fifth 1,000-yard season in six years, broken up only by the 997 yards Adams had in 2019.

He has caught 18 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown in three games this season.

The Raiders gave up a major haul in 2022 to get Adams when they sent the Packers first- and second-round picks in that year's draft and made Adams the highest-paid receiver at the time with a five-year, \$140 million contract, with nearly \$66 million guaranteed.

His final two years in 2025 and 2026 are not guaranteed. Adams' salary-cap hit rises from \$25.35 million this season to \$44.1 million each of the next two years, according to Spotrac. ESPN reported the Jets will assume the balance of Adams' remaining salary.